

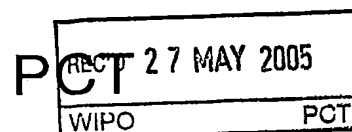
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

28/7

see form PCT/ISA/220



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000049

International filing date (day/month/year)
06.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
09.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
D03D27/08, D04B1/04

Applicant
SANTENS N.V.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000049

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000049

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-27,29,30
	No: Claims	1,28
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-30
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-30
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: CN 1 464 084 A (YU GANGGANG) 31 December 2003 (2003-12-31)
- D2: CN 1 414 156 A (QINGDAO MEIHAO TOWEL-COVERLET CO., LTD) 30 April 2003 (2003-04-30)
- D3: US 2003/056484 A1 (ODA TOMONAGA) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27)
- D4: CN 1 458 332 A (JILE TEXTILE ORNAMENT CO., LTD., SANGHAI) 26 November 2003 (2003-11-26)

- 1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1 and 28 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. The reasons being as follows:
- 2 D1, which is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, discloses (using the wording of claim 1): a looped fabric comprising a ground fabric and provided with loops of bamboo fibre.
D1 doesn't mention explicitly the material of the ground fabric. However, as it is standard practice for the man skilled in the art to use cotton for making towels, this feature can be considered as implicitly adherent to the fabric of D1.
Therefore, all technical features of claim 1 are known from D1.
- 3 D1 discloses (using the wording of claim 28): the use of a bamboo fibre in a looped fabric.
Consequently, all technical features of claim 28 are known from D1.
- 4 D2, D3 and D4 also disclose the use of a bamboo fibre in a towel.
- 5 Dependent claims 2-27, 29 and 30 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step with regard to the teaching of the documents cited in the search report and/or the general knowledge of the man skilled in the art.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000049